SENATE BILL 6575
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State of Washington   **60th Legislature**   **2008 Regular Session**

By Senator Pflug

Read first time 01/18/08.   Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1   AN ACT Relating to creating a health care work group; adding a new
2 section to chapter 70.38 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a private-public
5 partnership is required to bring health care costs under control and to
6 improve the quality of care that is delivered to residents of this
7 state.

8   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.38 RCW
9 to read as follows:
10   (1) A standing work group is established to develop, with local and
11 national experts on health care quality data collection and management,
12 an accessible secure internet-based format of reliable, state of the
13 art, evidence-based, and accurate information that will enable each
14 resident in the state, regardless of where he or she lives, to access
15 and understand his or her health care records and the quality of
16 performance of the provider from whom he or she is receiving or seeking
17 care and how he or she can use this information to improve his or her

1 personal health and to improve the outcome of the care that he or she
2 receives. The web site will also help providers operate more
3 efficiently and deliver high quality care at lower costs.
4   (2) The initial duties of the standing work group are as follows,
5 but the work group is authorized to develop additional strategies to
6 achieve the goals of this act:
7   (a) Develop a method to promote provider behavior change for a set
8 of carefully selected measures for which there is sufficient evidence
9 of need of improvement and organize the provider community in each area
10 around a specific set of behaviors that are known to have a direct
11 impact on outcomes;
12   (b) Develop a method to communicate to providers, in the most
13 transparent manner possible, the insurance plan's management data
14 related to total patient episode cost so that they can accurately see
15 where better collaboration could occur to reduce care and costs;
16   (c) Develop a method so that all of the providers caring for a
17 patient are assigned the cost of the patient episode so that there is
18 an incentive for providers to talk with each other about how to
19 minimize care and costs;
20   (d) Develop a method to communicate to the public accurate
21 comparison data that motivates providers to improve performance,
22 stimulates payers to reward quality and efficiency, and provides
23 information to patients so that they can decide from whom to seek care
24 and what outcomes they may expect and how best to adhere to the
25 treatment and care recommended.
26   (3) The work group shall be chaired and appointed jointly by the
27 attorney general and the governor and shall be made up of individuals
28 who are issue and technical experts; culturally competent individuals
29 from a variety of communities; and representatives of tribes, business,
30 labor, insurance, providers groups, health care consumer groups, and
31 higher education health professional training centers. The Washington
32 state health care authority quality forum shall report to the standing
33 work group quarterly on recommendations and findings from the Puget
34 Sound health alliance, the LeapFrog group, and others that would
35 improve access to meaningful information to enable each resident of the
36 state to learn about the quality performance of his or her provider.
37   (4) Staff support for the work group shall come from the

1   legislature with assistance from all state agencies that purchase
2   health care and the attorney general's office.
3   (5) The work group shall be responsible for recommending to the
4   legislature on November 1st of each year any state law changes and
5   appropriate levels of state funding needed in the following years to
6   reach the ultimate goal of this act.

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